View from the
Blackdown Hills

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Boost for special horticulture project

by Anders Larsson

PEOPLE taking part in a horticulture project at Barnfield Farm, Luppitt, in the Blackdown Hills, are benefitting from improved facilities thanks to a financial boost totalling £5,000.

The project received grants from the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership's Sustainable Development Fund and Devon County Council's Investing in Devon fund.

The horticulture project, which is run by Robert Owen Communities (ROC), offers an accredited learning or experiential service to local people with learning disabilities. People can not only take part in cultivation of vegetables and grow their own produce, but also become involved in a whole range of other teamwork tasks including land management, conservation, construction, woodwork and many other outdoor activities.

The grant has enabled the project to construct a rest room and compost toilet for those who currently participate in the project.

Horticulture project coordinator Chris Barron, said: "The new room will make a real difference to the people we support here and ensure the activity continues to be something that people will enjoy attending for years to come".

Simon Tickner, manager at Barnfield Farm, said: "Over five years, the project has gradually developed into a really positive activity for the people who attend and we are delighted to have improved facilities so more people can come and benefit from the experience of working and learning here. The support of the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership and Devon County Council have been invaluable in this respect."

If you would like to know more about the project or know someone who might enjoy attending, please get in touch with Simon or Chris on 01404 891627. To see a video about the project, visit the news section on ROC's website at www.roc-uk.org.

● ROC is a charitable organisation that supports people with learning disabilities across Devon and Cornwall. It has been operating for over 20 years and offers a range of services including residential care, supported living, health and creative activities, as well as work and learning opportunities.

■ TAKING SHAPE: The rest room is being built

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Police to focus on rural crime

DUE to increasing concerns regarding crimes being committed within rural communities the East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership has agreed to include tackling rural crime as one of its priorities for the next 12 months.

The partnership is in the process of developing an action plan which members feel will help in reducing such crime and part of it is about raising awareness of the problem and how everybody cam help by taking more care and responsibility for their property and being mindful and aware of any suspicious activity or behaviour.

Advice to anybody living in a rural area is that if they witness what they think is a crime being committed they should not hesitate to dial 999. If they see what they consider to be suspicious behaviour they should dial 101 and that information will then be filtered through for further investigation to a small team of police officers working on Operation Newmarket. Operation Newmarket has been set up to coordinate intelligence and to take positive action in respect of criminals engaged in rural crime.

Police Constable Simon Aldred, a member of the Operation Newmarket team said: "It is vital that officers have such information which could then lead to positive action being taken in due course. We need to know who is out and about in our rural communities acting suspiciously because we will do our very best to disrupt their criminal activities".

Preventative measures that can be taken are as follows:

- Clearly mark with your name and postcode any items of garden equipment such as lawnmowers, strimmers, hedge cutters etc. For the farming community this includes all valuable items of farming equipment and quad bikes and so on. Often marking the items clearly in large letters with a decent gloss paint can deter would be criminals. Keep a record of all serial numbers.
- Secure outbuildings and gates with quality padlocks.
- Consider installing security lighting or even CCTV cameras on your property. Ensure that such equipment is regularly maintained.
- Join a scheme such as CESAR to protect your vehicles and ensure that they are fully traceable should they be stolen.
- Join the free Community Messaging Service operated by the police to receive information and advice relating to local issues including crime. You can sign up via the police website - www.devon-cornwall.police.uk or contact your local officers by dialling 101.

New trees for the parish

MEMBERS of Shute Parish Council together with local residents and District Councillor Iain Chubb congregated at Bettys Ground in Shute on a chilly spring afternoon to plant two trees - an oak and an apple.

The Royal Oak was purchased by the parish council to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth. It will be part of the Woodlands Trust Jubilee Woods Project to plant six million trees and will be listed in the official Royal Record of Jubilee Trees.

The council was presented with an apple tree by the Blackdown Hills Transition Group under their scheme to donate an apple tree to each parish in their area.

Mole Avon in Axminster generously provided stakes, ties and tree guards to protect the saplings in their early years. A long term ambition - if it ever gets warm again - will be to sit in the shade under the oak and munch an apple from the tree.

Fire causes damage to school roof

FIVE fire engines were called to a blaze at Buckland St Mary Primary School on the evening of Tuesday, April 23rd.

The fire was reported at around 7.50pm and was confined to the roof space of the two-storey stone building.

No casualties were reported and the cause was found to be accidental. One fire appliance from Chard, one from Ilminster and one from Taunton were mobilised to the incident. On arrival crews requested a further two fire appliances and the hydraulic platfor which came from Taunton and Cullompton. An incident command unit from Street also attended.

The incident support unit was requested to assist with lighting and to provide more breathing apparatus.

The fire was extinguished and Western Power attended the incident to isolate the electrics. The roof sustained 10 per cent fire damage and the remainder of the building was still to be assessed after the fire was extinguished.

Musical director steps down

RETIRING after 10 years as musical director of Hemyock Singers, Ron White was given a standing ovation following his final concert with the group.

The 26 strong choir had given a performance of Brahms Requiem at St Mary's Church, Hemyock with soloists Jenny Doble (soprano) and Glyn Jones (tenor). The dynamics of the group were excellent and diction clear as they sang each section of the work , with the soloists giving a superb contribution to the work. Organist, Nigel Atkinson gave excellent accompaniment.

Janice Bawler, chairman, thanked Ron for all he had contributed to the groups success as musical director, reminding the audience that he had been involved with the group from its earliest days over 40 years ago, with a break after he left the area after being called to the Priesthood, returning to the village on his retirement.

Not only had he worked incredibly hard in the role he was relinquishing, he had over the years also taken roles in various stage productions and concerts.

She said there had been concern that this would be the final performance of the choir but the previous day someone had expressed an interest in taking on the role of musical director and the group looked forward with confidence to continuing.

Presentations were made to Ron's wife, Val, who has been a huge support to him and the group, as well as the soloists and organist.

The concert was given in memory of Joan Lawrence , a past president of the group and the retiring collection resulted in £200 being donated to the local Cameo Club who supply support for the frail and elderly.

NEWS *briefs*

Have a go at bowls

HEMYOCK Bowls club will be throwing open their doors later this moth to give members of the public a chance to have a go at indoor bowls.

They will be hosting two open mornings later on Sunday, May 5th and Monday, May 6th from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

For more information contact Sue Risdon on 01823 680169.

Open garden

WOLFORD Lodge in Dunkeswell will be opening its gardens to the public on Sunday, May 12th.

Entrance to the garden, from 2pm until 6pm, will be £3 for adults, with money going to St Nicholas Church, Dunkeswell.

Dogs are welcome on a lead and trefreshments with be served throughout the afternoon.

A short service will be held in Wolford Chapel at 6.15pm.

Speedwatch volunteers

UPOTTERY Parish Council are looking for people who are interested in becoming speedwatch volunteers.

PC Clive Vickery and PC Phil Anning gave a presentation of the speedwatch project during a meeting at Smeatharpe Village Hall.

Anyone interested in becoming a speedwatch volunteer should contact Kerry Kennell, Upottery Parish Clerk, via email to upotteryclerk@yahoo.co.uk.

Stockland Fair

PREPARATIONS are underway for this year's Stockland fair.

After taking a well-earned rest last year, organisers have promised that this year's Stockland Fair will be bigger and better than ever.

Gates will open at Stockland Victory Hall grounds at 1.30pm, when a whole host of family afternoon entertainment will get underway.

On the bill this year will be the famous Stockland "Eggathon", a falconry display, face painting, bungee run, brass band, street theatre, juggling, stalls, games and more.

The annual Stockland fair will take place on Monday, May 27th.

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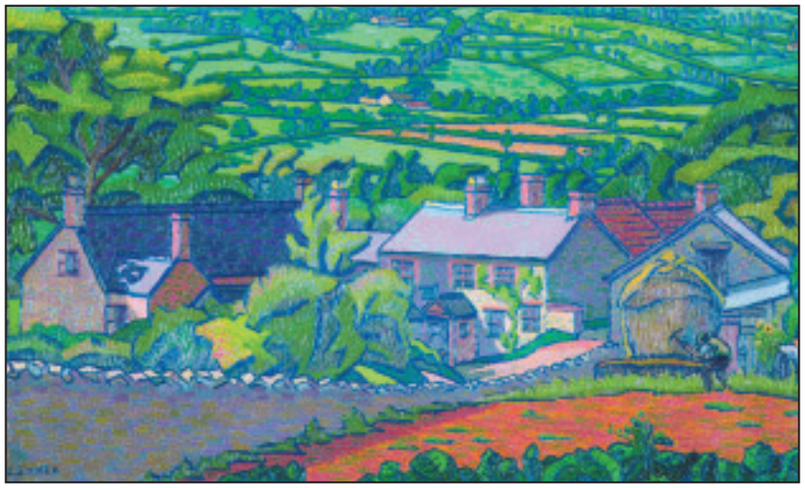

■ CLAYHIDON by Charles Ginner 1913 currently on display at the Royal Albert Memorial Musuem in Exeter

A celebration of the Clayhidon artists

A CENTURY ago in 1913, Applehayes Farm at Clayhidon on the Devon-Somerset border belonged to Harold Harrison, a retired rancher from Argentina.

Harrison, became friends with the Camden Town Artists Group whilst a London art student and from 1910 onwards he invited the members to visit his farm, amongst them Spencer Gore, Charles Ginner and Robert Bevan. Bevan, in particular, was inspired by the East Devon landscape and returned regularly until 1920.

The Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter is commemorating this centenary with a display of its important 1913 paintings by both Bevan and Ginner.

The exhibition is on show until November 24th.

■ DEVONSHIRE VALLEY by Robert Bevan

Field and pavilion to be kept in trust for villagers

VILLAGERS in Dalwood have been celebrating the approval of the former primary school field to be kept for community use.

The old school field and Woodhaven building will now be known as the Dalwood Jubilee Recreation Field and Pavilion.

The field and former school building are now owned by the community, following a campaign to keep the amenities open for villagers to use. Ownership has now been transferred to the Dalwood Recreation Trust.

To celebrate a bring and share lunch was held at the field and an impromptu Barn Dance was organised by members of the community.

Pictured are members of the Dalwood Recreation Trust and the celebration tea party held at the Dalwood Jubilee Recreation Field and Pavilion.

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Can your photo show the beauty of the hills?

A PHOTOGRAPHY competition has been launched to showcase one of the most beautiful but least well-known landscapes in the South West: the Blackdown Hills near Honiton.

The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is considered so precious that it has been protected for the nation since 1991. Now adults and children have the chance to win a meal for two at the award-winning Merry Harriers pub at Forches Corner, or a family day out exploring nature with Wildside Experience, by entering their best landscape photographs of the area.

The competition has been organised by the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership as part of the 'What makes a view? Project. During 2013, people who live in or love to visit the Blackdown Hills will be able to take part in various activities to champion the views they love most. This will help the AONB team to influence planning decisions and better protect the beauty of the Blackdown Hills in future.

All entries should show a landscape taken within, of, or from the Blackdown Hills AONB. They must be in jpeg format, no larger than 3MB, and emailed to: blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk. Entries can be submitted at any time, and the closing date is 4th November 2013. For more information, see the AONB's website at blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk.

WHAT MAKES A VIEW: Can your photo demonstrate the beauty of the hills?

NEWS *briefs*

Tennis club success

CONGRATULATIONS to the men's team of Hemyock Tennis Club who won the West Somerset Winter League again this year.

An Open Evening is planned for the Tennis Club on Friday May 17th at 7pm.

Tony Pryce Sports will be on the courts with an assortment of racquets for people to try. The ball machine will be in action and members will be there to help newcomers. All abilities are welcome.

The club has a new coach this season who will be offering a variety of coaching courses on Wednesdays. These will be for juniors and seniors - the juniors, in three age groups from four to 16 years and "returning to tennis", intermediates and "improvers" for the seniors. The next course starts on June 4th. Details are available from Dan Sizer - dansizer@hotmail.com.

Club secretary Sue Lambert said: "We are sorry that Julie Steed, the club chairman is retiring this year, after six successful years, and we welcome Andrew Lovering in her stead. Sue Lambert can be contacted on 01823 680664.

Flower festival

DALWOOD church will be holding a flower festival entitled "Let's Dance".

The festival will be held on Friday, June 28th until Monday, June 30th from 10am until 5pm.

Light lunches and refreshments will be served.

Breathing easy

BREATHE Easy Blackdown Hills is the support network of the British Lung Foundation who provide advice, information and support to people suffering from lung conditions. Meetings are open to patients, carers, family and friends. Anyone affected by a lung condition - whatever their illness is welcome to attend.

The group meets on the last Wednesday of the month from March to December in the Village Hall, Dunkeswell, between 2 and 4pm. All are welcome. All are welcome for a cup of tea and to meet new friends.

On Wednesday May 29th, Sarah Lines, Respiratory Nurse Specialist and BLF Nurse from the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital will be speaking.

For more information please contact the group's secretary on 01404 891707.

River Cottage search for a rising star

THE River Cottage Rising Star 2013 competition has launched to give one lucky individual the best possible start to their career. River Cottage is looking for one inspirational character to become the face of its new Young Chef Apprenticeship Scheme and gain a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to secure 12 months employment working with the team at River Cottage HQ, Park Farm.

River Cottage Rising Star 2013 will follow the learning journey that the apprentice embarks on at River Cottage HQ, and will demonstrate through a number of media channels how their culinary skills are improving, with the aim to influence other young people in the South West to join similar programmes.

With content being distributed through all of the River Cottage social media platforms the exposure of the 'Rising Star' will be maximised, propelling the most dedicated and passionate individual into the spotlight.

The competition requires each willing entrant to upload a video to Youtube which demonstrates their love of food and ambition to become a chef. The eight videos with the most 'likes' and two River Cottage selected wildcards will go through to the live hang-outs with esteemed judges Gill Meller, Steven Lamb and Stef Smith.

The five that impress will then join the team at Park Farm where they will participate in a live culinary battle with the other contestants to become the River Cottage Rising Star 2013.The competition is open to all that apply for a place on the Young Chef Apprenticeship Scheme.

Chris Griffin, Head of Education said: "If you are between the ages of 16-19, not in full time education and fancy your chances in becoming River Cottage Rising Star 2013, apply now on www.rivercottage.net/risingstar/"

Kids are invited to design a King of the Mountain jersey

DEVON schoolchildren have the opportunity to design the famous ŠKODA King of the Mountains Jersey for this year's Tour of Britain.

The "Polka Dot Jersey", as it is often referred to, is awarded to the best climber in the race and the official jersey sponsor ŠKODA is offering one student the chance to see their design made and worn during The Tour.

The competition is open to children aged seven to 16 and entries must be submitted by Friday 14 June. The winner will be invited to present their jersey to the rider crowned ŠKODA King of the Mountains at the Tour's official prize ceremony on Sunday 22 September in Central London.

This year's Tour of Britain comes to the Blackdown Hills on Friday September 20th when Devon County Council will host Stage Six, covering around 85 miles (137 km) of the county from Sidmouth to Haytor in Dartmoor National Park. It will be the first time a stage has finished with a ŠKODA King of the Mountains climb in the modern era of the race.

Haytor last featured in the Tour in 2011 when Devon rider Jonathan Tiernan Locke dominated the climbs and went on to win the ŠKODA King of the Mountains Jersey. He became the first Briton to win the race overall last year during a record-breaking Tour which saw more than 220,000 spectators turnout across Devon.

Celebrating its tenth year, The Tour of Britain 2013 will run from Sunday 15 to Sunday 22 September. The race will get underway from Peebles in the Scottish Borders before ending in the heart of London with a ten lap circuit race finishing in Whitehall.

Full entry details and more information can be found at www.skoda.co.uk/about-us/skoda-and-cycling/tour-of-britain

■ KING of the Mountains jersey from the 2012 Tour de France

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Blackdowns clubs and societies

Bishopswood Ladies

IN Rosemary Viant's absence Mary Gusterson read the chairman's report to the AGM. This thanked secretary Pamela Bamber, treasurer Rosemary Ward-Smith, programme secretary Rosemary Robson, skittles organiser Janet Grabham and walks organiser Penny Gale as well as the rest of the committee for all their help. The report stated that the group was thriving, and a card thanking Rosemary Viant for her contribution as chairman will be given to her. The treasurer then reported that group's finances were in good order, but that in view of rising costs it was proposed that the subscription, which had been held for the last six years, should be increased from £15 to £18. The committee will remain as last year except that Tricia Taylor will be the new chairman.

Trudi Morgan, the newly appointed village agent, then introduced herself. She will be available, by phone or email, to visit and give confidential advice on a range of problems from health and social care to housing and benefits.

Jon Mayled, the editor of CBO News then enlightened the meeting on exactly what his job involves. His task is made easier by the excellent team of volunteer collaters and distributors that assist him. The policy of the magazine is to represent both the parish councils and the parochial church councils, and every entry to the magazine is published, providing that it arrives on time and is not libellous! Entries come in electronically, in various formats, and are then processed by Jon, who groups news from the three parishes and, to ensure fairness, rotates the order in which they appear in the magazine. Jon acts as copy editor and proof reader, and eventually everything goes to the printers in Tiverton. This work, which luckily Jon enjoys, takes about one and a half days per month. This month 445 copies of CBO News were sold. All new residents are given a free copy in the hope that they will become regular subscribers.

Over a delicious supper provided by Sandra Leigh, Rosemary Robson and Victoria Southcott, news of the skittles matches, won against Kingston St Mary and won by Youth over Experience, was given. Six ramblers had profited by an unusually clement day's weather, to walk six and a half miles from Crewkerne via Clapton, and the bells are again practising for an engagement.

Next month the meeting will be held in Bishopswood Chapel when David Ricketts will talk about Chard Museum. Visitors are welcome.

Sampford Arundel W.I.

'THE luck of the draw' was how Steven Sylvester, the speaker at Sampford Arundel W.I.'s last meeting became a Beven Boy during the second World War – conscripted to work in the mines for the duration.

His wide- ranging talk included the terror of the lift-shaft, the silence and blackness of the pit, the danger of the work, to problems of mixing lads of different backgrounds, filthy clothes, rats, and pilchard sandwiches. A fascinating, sometimes sad, sometimes funny talk.

Wide-ranging also describes the activities of the W.I. diaries at the ready for scrabble, skittles, and the painting day (the latter hopefully outside). Then there will be a chance to finish projects of craft or handwork or writing a best-seller at a 'stitch-and-bitch'; a lunch; group meeting and village quiz. Events requiring more input include the fete in July for which schedules are being printed and a parish meeting coming up; and help with a lunch for W.I members from Devon.

Nomination papers were passed for next month's AGM. and suggestions were requested for Christmas!

Yarty Gardening Club

WHATEVER the size or state of your present lawn, or your hopes and expectations for a future lawn, Mr Mike Smith from Weston Super Mare, a recommended RHS speaker, came to the Yarty Gardening Club's meeting in March with an enormous amount of information and encouragement about how to maintain and improve any type of lawn or grass area.

He went through a calendar year in lawn care and concluded his presentation with an interesting slide show on all types of grass, bugs and weeds. He finished by taking questions from the floor and proved himself a mine of information on a subject that has been close to his heart for many years.

Members will be visiting Stourhead on May 16th. Visitors will be made very welcome.

Blackdown Hills Garden Club

THE April evening meeting began with chairman, Graham Salmon, welcoming everyone to Churchinford Hall and giving out notices. Secretary, Jane Hunt, along with Ann Salmon gave details of outings. Treasurer, Colvin Parry, was on hand to take membership subscriptions from another two people.

Graham introduced Mr John Horsey of East Lambrook Manor Gardens who gave a talk with slides on the Magic of the Winter Garden. The emphasis being on trees large and small which play a major part with their structure and form, both evergreen and deciduous providing colour and interest, even their bark seemed interesting. Garden statues show up particularly well in winter light. Different grasses varying in height and shape make a striking display.

Graham proposed thanks to Mr Horsey in our usual way and the raffle and refreshments followed.

The next meeting is an outing to Jacksons Nursery, Combe Raleigh on Wednesday May 15th at 6.30pm for a tour and demonstration. Then members all have a go at potting up a hanging basket or pot.

A month later is the visit to Cleave Hill Gardens, Musbury on Wednesday, June 16th at 6.30pm, a cottage style garden.Visitors are always welcome.

For the club programme click on www.upottery.com, then B.H.G.C. link.

Beef and butterflies

Support and advice for anyone farming the wet, marshy valley sides of the Blackdown Hills

A WALK around the flower-rich pastures on a typical Blackdown Hills valleyside farm is on offer on Saturday, May 18th.

The event is open to anyone with an interest in the old marshy fields and heaths on the Blackdown Hills, and how to conserve them for the future.

This open afternoon is being kindly hosted by Charlie Hopcraft and family at Higher Luxton Farm, Churchinford (TA3 7PN, one mile south of Churchinford off the Upottery road). Visitors will walk round Charlie's pastures to see the spring flowers and discuss management issues. Then return for a cream tea – all for free!

For more information please call Gavin Saunders on 01823 680846.

Anyone who owns or farms land on the wet, marshy valley sides of the Blackdown Hills is being offered support through the Beef & Butterflies project. This locally-run project is offering free and independent advice on the management of marshy grazing land throughout 2013. It is also offering a chance to join a new local association to help owners of this land learn from each other and make the best choices for the future.

The Beef & Butterflies project is run by local people, and supported by the Blackdown Hills AONB, the Forestry Commission and Natural England. It is funded by Making it Local, a locally-managed grants scheme in the Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONB areas, incorporating funding from the EU, Defra and Leader.

Any landowner or manager seeking free independent advice or further information should contact either Len North (on 01460 234309, mobile 07932 144411, email lennorth@axis-connect.com) or George Greenshields (on 01297 678420, mobile 07770 961120, email George@ecologic-consultants.co.uk.

Kantering in Kilmington

THE second year of the Kilmington Kanter attracted 93 runners.

Sixty-seven runners took part in the seven-mile multi terrain course which was enjoyed by all the runners even the long hill at the five-mile point, which was tough. The race was won by Matthew Clist of Axe Valley Runners in a time of 42:30. Second placed in a time of 42:46 was Tim Lenton of Axe Valley Runners and third was Alex Todd in a time of 43:56 of Axe Valley Runners. The first female overall in a time 54:59 was Suzanne Spiller of Honiton running club.

The Fun Run, which was over a distance of 2.5 miles followed a route up the hill through village and up to Kilmington Woods and back down the hill returning to the finish at the cricket club. Well done to all 26 people who took part in the fun run with excellent turnout of 22 youngsters between the ages of 11 and 16 taking part. First l in an excellent time of 17:31 was Henry Riddle of Honiton Running Club aged 14. Second was Rowan Westall of Honiton Running Club in a time of 18:27, aged 12 years. Third place in a time of 18:47 was Ollie Caute, aged 13 years, from Axe Valley Runners. First girl was Mollie Hansford, aged 16, of Axe Valley Runners in a time of 19:20.

Kilmington PTFA would like to thank everybody who supported the event with a special thank you to the marshals around the course giving guidance and support to the runners. A thank you to the landowners for their support with the organising of the course and to Millers Farm Shop and Ganesha Wholefoods for the excellent prizes for the runners of each category. Overall the day raised just over £900 for Kilmington Primary School which was a huge success for all involved.

Kilmington Kanter Results

1st Male: Matthew Clist 42:30 Axe Valley Runners
1st Female: Suzanne Spiller 54:59 Honiton Running Club
1st Male 40-49: Martin McEneny 48:51 Haldon Trail Runners
1st Male over 50: Paul Thomas 49:30 SWRR
1st Female 35-44:Lesley Crocker 60:38 Honiton Running Club
1st Female over 45:Eleanor Wood 55:15 Axe Valley Runners

Fun Run Results

1st Boy aged 11/12: Rowan Westall 18:27 Honiton Running Club
1st Girl aged 11/12: Mia Bartlett 21:37 Axe Valley Runners
1st Boy aged 13/14: Henry Riddle 17:31 Honiton Running Club
1st Girl aged 13/14: Florence Swan 19:59 Honiton Running Club
1st Boy aged 15/16: Stephen Morbey 22:23 Axe Valley Runners
1st Girl aged 15/16: Mollie Hansford 19:20 Axe Valley Runners

■ THE WAY THROUGH THE WOODS: Runners in the second Kilmington Kanter

Art project based on the Blackdown Hills in WW2

Did you live in the Blackdown Hills in World War 2? Did you attend dances at the airfields? Where you a land girl or an evacuee? Did you work at the any of the three airfields?

ARTISTS Carly Batchelor and Ruth Bell are creating artwork inspired by the residents of the Blackdown Hills during the Second World War.

The artwork will be exhibited within the Blackdown Hills as part of BHAAM (Blackdown Hills Artist and Makers) project 'Skills Unearthed' which explores craft and industry in the Blackdown Hills.

Carly Batchelor is a portrait photographer, artist and photography lecturer. Carly is making photographic artwork about people who resided within the Blackdown Hills during World War 2. If you lived or know someone that lived in the Blackdowns during World War 2 Carly would love to hear from you.

To contact Carly by telephone: 07595 165549 or by email carlybatchelor@hotmail.com

To view Carly's work on-line www.carlybatchelor.co.uk

Ruth Bell is a dance artist living and working in the Blackdown Hills. For her latest project she is making a short dance film located at Dunkeswell Airfield.

Ruth is looking to interview people who remember going to dances up at the airfield during the war. She would love to use these memories for part of the choreography and soundtrack.

If you, or any of your friends can remember the dances, please contact:

Ruth Bell, 07892 896 895 ruth.danceartist@gmail.com

To view the BHAAM website www.bhaam.org.uk

Favourite Clayhidon walk restored

■ ONE of Clayhidon's loveliest walks, between Bellets and Lillycombe, has for years been virtually impassible because of a bog.

Now a boardwalk has been built across the mire by Devon County Council following pressure from the parish council.

Walkers who had been avoiding this path have rediscovered an enchanting route across the River Culm and the Stapley stream through woods and drifts of wild flowers.

Working our Woodlands

with John Greenshields

IT'S a tricky business managing woodlands, what with wildlife, flora and fauna to contend with not to say the length of time before you know if you have got it correct - it could be 50 years!

The Woodland Association in conjunction with Woodbiz are running another Managing Woodlands for wood fuel and wildlife courses on the 22nd of this month (contacts are below).

I was asked to survey some trees the other day next to a school, these trees were surveyed a year ago by someone else, and given the all clear. Now given the proximity of the school I really went to town and at the base of one of the beech I found some small fruit bodies (fungal growths), I have come across theses before especially on beech, birch, and chestnut so I investigated more.

Using a large wooden mallet I "sounded" the tree and was convinced it was hollow, although there were no other outward signs so I condemned it for culling. This was against the wishes of some near by residents so my reputation was on the line. However when felled 75 per cent of the tree was hollow and would not have survived a year or more, and coming down would have caused immense damage.

Culmwoods is up and running now working in two private woodlands, this group of guys will come and manage your woodland in exchange for wood fuel. The group is fully insured and have all the relevant qualification, see Culmwoods page on the web site.

Spring is here (I hope) and care of your young trees is important now. Check for damage from deer and mice, especially in tree tubes, use a prune sealer to stop infection. You should have done the pruning of your fruit trees a couple of months ago and new buds are on their way, but check for diseases and deformation.

On the website - http://www.woodbiz.co.uk/ there is an excellent guide called "condition survey of non-woodland amenity trees - it sounds longwinded but it's worth looking at.

For anyone wanting to create woodland, no matter how small, I can help with funding and planning. We need to plant (according to a forest research survey) one million more trees each year than we are just to retain the balance, so get in touch if you want a hand.

The Blackdown Hills Woodland Fair on July 6th is still on weather permitting, and it looks like it will be the biggest yet. Planning started in February. We have 25 or so volunteers but could do with more. If you volunteer you will be fed and watered and only be asked to work for 2-3 hours so the rest of the time you can enjoy the fair !

My usual contacts are 01823660764 parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk

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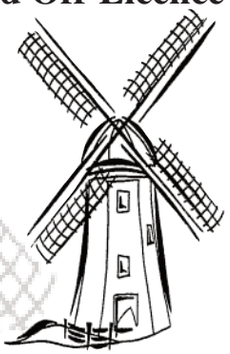

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LeisureReview

To advertise contact Alex Phryce-Jones on 01297 35750

Dramatic events in the Blackdown Hills!

by Bee Hill

MANY Blackdown Hills residents are lamenting the closure of the Brewhouse Theatre in Taunton but one consolation must surely be that in Churchinford -through the Take Art scheme - and in Clayhidon, Dunkeswell and Awliscombe - through Villages in Action rural touring scheme - people are still being treated to professional performances of outstanding quality right on their very doorsteps. These villages are working together to help promote these events to as large an audience as possible – excellent shows with none of the drudgery and expense of travelling to Exeter, Plymouth or Bristol.

So it's with great pleasure that Clayhidon extends a warm welcome to the residents of neighbouring villages in the Blackdowns attend the next performance at Clayhidon Village Hall in May.

Following the excellent reception at the Exeter Northcott Theatre and other venues in Devon last year, The Uncommon Players, in conjunction with the Northcott are proud to represent "Talking Heads" by Alan Bennett on Friday, May 17th at 7.30pm at Clayhidon Village Hall. (Tickets on sale now – see below for details)

Some may have seen the first performances of this acclaimed series of short plays by Alan Bennett when they were shown on BBC television some years ago. In this show three of the most outstanding vignettes will be staged by the Devon-based company The Uncommon Players, an open mix of theatre artists who will be bringing to audiences high quality theatre from one of Britain's leading dramatists – this is surely an opportunity that shouldn't be missed.

■ MORE SHERRY VICAR: Imogen Smith as Susan

In *A Bed Among the Lentils* the audience meet Susan (Imogen Smith) a vicar's wife for whom a taste for sherry and a dalliance with a local corner shopkeeper help alleviate the tedium.

Next in *Soldiering On* community stalwart Muriel (Jenny Start) organises people and events including her own husband's funeral, with military precision.

And in A Cream Cracker Under the Settee the audience meets Doris (Janet Hookway) who is fastidiously clean and defiant about going into a home.

As the lives of three women are prised open, their joys and foibles as human beings are unwittingly revealed in this blackly comic and poignant production that reveals the truths lurking under the surface of 'Britishness'. Audiences will enjoy an intensely personal and private tour of their lives, as the beautiful craftsmanship of Bennett's writing sensitively navigates the recognisable ridiculousness found in the mundane and the familiar.

■ SOLDIERING ON: Jenny Start as Muriel

● **More treats later in the year at Clayhidon Hall to note in your diaries:**

Friday September 27th at 7.30pm – The Leon Hunt n'Tet – UK's leading banjoist and his fabulous Bluegrass Band.

Leon's a great favourite in the Blackdowns and his last show sold out a month in advance, so please book early for this one to avoid disappointment! See their website: http://www.leonhuntntet.com

Saturday November 2nd at 7.30pm - James Hickman (guitar & vocals) & Dan Cassidy (violin) play Celtic Folk and Swing. A transatlantic duo inspired by the music traditions of America & Britain.

See their website: http://hickmanandcassidy.co.uk

For more information about any of these events and tickets contact Bee Hill on Tel: 01823 680 347 or email: beehill@hotmail.co.uk or look on the Clayhidon website www.clayhidon.org.uk

■ NOT GOING IN A HOME: Janet Hookway as Doris

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To advertise contact Alex Phryce-Jones on 01297 35750

Take in a tour of the artisans

THERE is a wealth of creative talent tucked away and inspired by the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. "We hope you will find the artisans for yourselves and experience their wares and skills, many offer an online ordering service and they are happy to receive commissions or orders.

In this virtual tour of the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty we help you to find those talented people and see the quality and originality of their workmanship. Why not call them, visit them at an open studio event, a show, a farmers' market or try their shops or tea rooms.

Where else in rural Devon and Somerset could you find local salami, bespoke saddlery, cider made to a traditional recipe from local fruit, ice cream like you have never tasted before, and honey from bees that forage our beautiful hedgerows and meadows? There are potters, jewellers, highly- skilled wood makers and turners, and others who make their living painstakingly restoring furniture, including much loved pianos that have seen better days.

All these skills are alive and well in the Blackdown Hills, supported by the Blackdown Hills Business Association. Val Baker the Business Co-ordinator for the Association said "we are so fortunate to have this wealth of creative talent here, The Blackdown Hills Business Association is proud to showcase these businesses at events and shows in the region every year, I am always amazed by the quality and range of businesses that make their living in our beautiful area."

Why not make a day of it and plot your tour over lunch or a Devon cream tea at one of the many excellent, Blackdown pubs or cafes, where, more often than not, local produce features on the menu?

The following Artisans will be open on Friday, 10th and Saturday, 11th May 2013 from 10am until 5pm (unless otherwise indicated):

Common Loaf Bakery (Stentwood Tea room open every day apart from Saturdays) Stentwood Farm, nr Dunkeswell, Honiton, Devon www.commonloaf.com Hand crafted speciality breads, cookies and other baked goods, made entirely out of stone-ground spelt or rye flour, baked in the old-fashioned way.
New for 2013 Stentwood Farm Tea Room - A unique, warm and cosy space to enjoy the hospitality of our home: rustic interior, log fire, hot drinks, cakes and cookies, hot sandwiches and soup.

David Lloyd Cabinet Maker (open Friday, 10th and Saturday 11th May 2013) Dunkeswell, Nr Honiton Devon www.davidrlloyd.co.uk. Traditional and contemporary furniture made to commission. Fitted and free-standing kitchens made and personalised to your requirements. Bespoke joinery undertaken.

Ellises Farm (Farm Shop open 7 days a week) Hemyock, Devon www.ellises-farm.co.uk. Producing artisan pork, nitrate-free bacon, preservative-free sausages and handmade frankfurters, salamis, cured meats and chorizo from our home reared pigs. Farm shop on site.

Nicola Werner Majolica Pottery (Open Friday, 10th and Saturday 11th May 2013) Near Hemyock, Devon www.nicolawerner.com. Hand-thrown pottery painted with colourful birds and leaves on a white tin glaze. Kitchen and bathroom tiles a speciality, commissions welcome. I am very fortunate to continue to happily make a living in the country, creating pots & tiles to enhance people's enjoyment of daily life.Visitors always welcome by appointment.

Otter Valley Dairy (Ice Cream Parlour open throughout the summer) Aplins Farm, Monkton, Honiton, Devon EX14 9QN www.ottervalleydairy.co.uk. Award-winning artisan ice cream and frozen yogurts, handmade using the milk and cream from own pedigree dairy herd. Ice cream parlour open during summer months.

Sweethay Studio Spinners & Weavers (Open Friday, 10th and Saturday 11th May 2013 until 8pm on both days) Trull NearTaunton www.spinnersandweaversworkshop.com. We are a relaxed and friendly group offering tuition in spinning and weaving, Why not join us?

Tricky Cider (Open Friday, 10th and Saturday 11th May 2013) Near Taunton www.tricky-cider.com. Through our passion for cider and our love of the traditional processes, we were determined to preserve the art of traditional cider making. Tricky Cider's authentic taste was refined over several years of perfecting our recipe and blend of local cider apples. As we say at Tricky – It's all in the Apple.

W Young Piano Tuning & Restoration (Open Friday, 10th and Saturday 11th May 2013) Near Hemyock, Devon www.wypianos.co.uk. Over 20 years' experience in all aspects of pianos, from tuning and sales to repairs, restoration and full rebuilds. Using traditional techniques and specialist components.

Artisans also open in nearby East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Ann Bruford Jewellery (Open Friday, 10th and Saturday 11th May also see website for other opening times for shop in Budleigh Salterton). East Devon www.annbrufordjewellery.com Unique and limited edition jewellery, individually designed and handmade in precious and semi-precious materials.

The following artisans are unable to take part in the open days, but would be delighted to hear from you if you are interested in the services they offer, or the unique or bespoke items that they make. They all have comprehensive websites that will give you an excellent idea of the quality of their workmanship.

David Ball Furniture Restoration Nr Hemyock, Devon www.dbfr.co.uk. I will repair and restore your damaged and broken antique and other furniture to a high standard using traditional methods and materials including veneering, French polishing, cane and rush. I look forward to welcoming you to my workshop.

Gill Campbell Master Saddler]Near Axminster http://www.saddlerybespoke.co.uk. Master Saddler offering bespoke bridlework, belts, dog collars and accessories. Leather, saddlery and harness repairs and alterations. Saddle fitting and reflocking.

Helen G Beads www.helengbeads.co.uk. Handmade glass beads, buttons, home accessories and jewellery using the ancient art of lampworking-melting glass rods in a flame. Tuition packages and courses available. I also have a new bumpy bead range for 2013 and a range of floral inspired beads in neutral tones.

Kindred Rose Near Cullompton, Devon www.kindredrose.co.uk. I make unique handmade cushions for all ages. Combining quirky, vintage and traditional fabrics and styles. Specialising in children's bespoke personalised cushions.

Robert Parker Woodcrafter Near Chard, Somerset www.dumponthehill.co.uk Using locally collected English hardwood Robert produces turned work, furniture and kitchenware such as chopping boards. Supplying shops and galleries. Individual commissions welcome.

Ross Emerson Ceramic Sculpture Near Hemyock, Devon www.rossemerson.co.uk. I specialise in making 'one off' hand-built, sculptural ceramics, pottery sculptures, sculptures with function or just slightly crazy clocks. Visitors welcome by appointment.

bh ba Blackdown Hills Business Association

Join the Blackdown Hills Business Association in 2013

We have been supporting businesses for over 30 years

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Join us and you will get invites to the Honiton show, Taunton markets, FREE training, socials and networking events

Membership of the BHBA is £50 per year

For more information, please contact Val Baker on 01823 681484 or email info@bhba.org.uk www.bhba.org.uk

Blackdown Hills Artisans are opening their doors on Friday, 10th and Saturday 11th May 2013

For more details visit www.blackdown-hills.co.uk

Sweethay Weavers and Spinners, Trull
Nicola Werner Pottery, Bolham Water
Stentwood Farm Tea Room, nr Dunkeswell is open Sunday through to Friday and will be delighted to see you in their tea room (not open Saturdays)
Ann Bruford Jewellery has her own shop in Budleigh Salterton
David Lloyd Cabinet Maker, Dunkeswell
Otter Valley Dairy Ice Cream Parlour on the A30 just outside Honiton
Ellises Farm, Hemyock
W Young Piano Tuning & Restoration, Nr Hemyock
Tricky Cider, Churchinford

BHBA at St Ivel House, Station Road, Hemyock, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3SJ. E: info@bhba.org.uk or T: 01823 681484 www.bhba.org.uk.

Honiton Agricultural Show - Thursday 1st August 2013

The 123rd Honiton Agricultural Show takes place on Thursday 1st August 2013.

The Grand Parade is one of the many highlights of the main ring activities where the day's livestock winners proudly parade. The 2013 main ring will be a hive of activity with fantastic acts such as the Squibb Freestyle Stunt Show a spectacular motocross show performed by triple winning British FMX rider Jamie Squibb with phenomenal tricks. We are delighted to welcome back the Ridgeside Lurcher Display Team, a superb act where lurchers will race at full speed chasing the electric lure together with an informative and humorous commentary by Phill Gibbons. Public participation is welcomed and the offer to compete with your own dogs whatever their breed! The highlight of this brilliant act is a race between lurchers and a hawk – a spectacle not to be missed. The lower field incorporates all that is countryside with hurdle making, ferret racing, a blacksmiths guild and a trip down memory lane with a vintage tractor section with over 100 vehicles on display. Honiton plays host to the West of England Hound Show, a show within a show, which attracts a huge following countrywide. There is the wonderful dog show comprising both pedigree and fun classes for the pet pooch. If chickens are your interest we have a fantastic Poultry show and sale. Come and meet two fascinating Otters, Belinda and Rudi and learn all about them from their enthusiastic owner Daphne Neville. With over 400 trade stands, including crafts, shopping and a fabulous food hall there really is something for everyone. We have a huge and diverse range of food courts to tickle your taste buds with local caterers offering the very best produce why not start with a delicious bacon roll and end the day with a refreshing Pimms from local brewery Otter Brewery. Honiton prides itself on being a truly traditional agricultural show with a unique atmosphere it brings new and traditional agriculture together so make a note in the diary, 1st August, we all look forward to welcoming you. Don't forget accompanied under 16's are free. Make savings and purchase your advance tickets now for just £12.50 per adult for a whole day of entertainment. For further details on the show, requests for livestock and horse schedules or becoming a member of the Association with all its benefits please contact the secretary on 01404 41794 or visit the website www.honiton-show.co.uk.

Honiton Agricultural Show

HONITON & DISTRICT Agricultural Association
Est 1890
(Hosts to The West of England Hound Show)

Thursday 1st August 2013

MAIN RING ACTS SO FAR...

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- Ridgeside Lurcher Display
- Grand Parade of Livestock
- Alpacas, Cattle, Horses & Sheep Classes

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Horse & Livestock entries close 14th June please apply for a schedule to:
Secretary; Marcelle Connor, Bank House, 66a High Street, Honiton, Devon EX14 1PS

www.honitonshow.co.uk

Axe Vale Show • 22nd - 23rd June 2013

COME along to the Axminster Showground on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd June and enjoy one of the best gardening and craft shows in the South West. It's a great day out for ALL the family!

This years Festival will feature many new attractions, including a guest appearance by Pecorama, who will be bringing part of their famous miniature railway to the Show and giving steam train rides on a section of track. A delight for young and old alike!

Other new attractions to the show include Western Counties Heavy Horse Society, who will be bringing along a pair of their magnificent Shire Horses. A new charity is also represented this year called "Soldiers off the Street" who will be raising funds and public awareness for homeless ex-military personnel.

As always, the Floral Marquee will host a stunning range of flowers, shrubs and trees, shown by award-winning exhibitors. Plants and seed can be purchased throughout the show, and as the Festival draws to a close on Sunday afternoon, there may well be an opportunity to pick up some real bargains!

There will be a fantastic range of crafts, antiques and collectables, and toys and hobbies to enjoy at this years show, whilst the Shopping Malls will feature a range of goods for your home and garden. Take a look at what Axminster town has to offer at the Spirit of the Community Marquee, and visit the Axminster and District Horticultural Society Annual Show with its large number of classes and the Axminster Art Society exhibition and sale of member's paintings.

Feeling hungry, then head for the Food Hall where you will find an excellent range of locally sourced pies, pasties, sausages, cheeses, puddings, yoghurts, fudge, chutneys, and homemade bread and cakes. And don't forget to sample the locally made drinks too. Also there will be a number of food mobiles around the showground.

The ever popular Arena Events include Allan Gates, who is returning with his highly aclaimed falconry display, and appearing for the first time Nicola Grellis of Smale Gundogs. Enjoy music by two new acts at this years show, New Dixieland Band and Coast.

To advertise contact
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Devon County Show • 16th - 18th May 2013

Devon County Show starts to take shape

PREPARATION has started on the build for this year's Devon County Show on May 16-18.

A team of eight contractors are making the showground home for the next month as they build marquees equivalent in size to approximately four football pitches.

Show Secretary Ollie Allen said: "This is a really big task! In marquee-building terms, it's equivalent to scaling Mount Everest!"

Now in its 118th year, the County Show boasts livestock, food and drink, a flower and garden marquee, traditional crafts such as shoeing and metalwork and lots of family entertainment on the 93-acre site.

Ollie added she hopes to see more than 90,000 visitors at the event over the three days where there will be more than 7,000 animals, well over 400 volunteer stewards and practically non-stop entertainment in six Show arenas and rings.

Family favourite the Diggerland JCB Stunt Team are heading the bill in the Mole Valley Farmers Main Arena while alongside the Woodland feature, 'Savage Skills' the champion team of BMX riders will perform various stunts and offer coaching between performances.

In the livestock section top breeders from around the country will be showing their South Devons and Dexters in two prestigious national cattle shows alongside the various other cattle breeds who have booked their beds!

Once again up to three children (aged 5 to 15) get free admission on Saturday when accompanied by a paying adult and senior citizens buying in advance are eligible for the buy-one-get-one-free offer on all three days of the Show.

www.devoncountyshow.co.uk

Brewers and cider makers in the popular Ales from Devon feature expect to pull around 7,500 pints of beer and 2,500 pints of cider.

Ollie Allen, Show Secretary of the Devon County Show, starts the massive job of marking out the 93 acre showground. ***Picture credit: Richard Austin***

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- Secondary glazing

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Doors

- PVCu doors
- Aluminium doors
- Composite doors

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The front door can be an impressive greeting for visitors, and is your assurance of security when you leave so it makes sense to be sure of quality in both aesthetic and performance terms.

A well designed front door is an opportunity not only to stamp your own individuality on your home but also to mark it apart as a more secure barrier which in turn can discourage unwelcome attention from intruders.

Conservatories

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